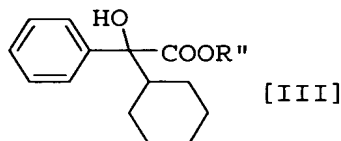
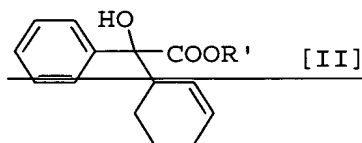


9. (Amended) The production method of ~~any of claims claim 4 to 8~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in monochlorobenzene.

10. (Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula [III]

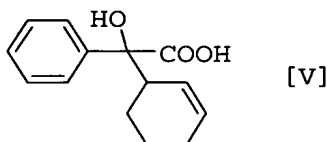


wherein R'' is linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s), which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, norbornyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl and (α-cyclohexyl-α-hydroxybenzyl)carbonyloxy, or cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl or norbornyl, which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s) and phenyl or an optically active form, which method ~~comprising~~ comprises reducing a compound of ~~the formula [II]~~

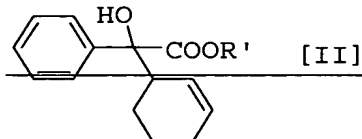


~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof.~~

12. (Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula [V]

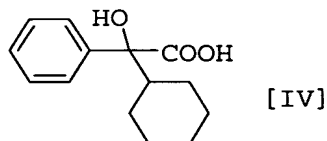


, an optically active form thereof or a salt thereof, which method ~~comprising~~ hydrolyzing a compound of ~~the formula [II]~~

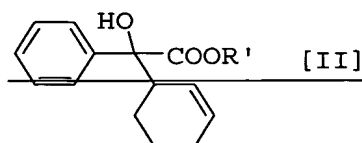


~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof.~~

15. (Amended) A method for producing 2-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetic acid of the formula [IV]

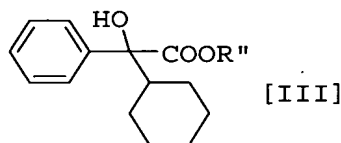


, an optically active form thereof or a salt thereof, which method ~~comprising~~ comprises subjecting a compound of the formula [II]

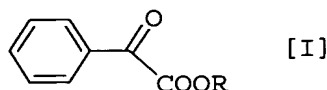


~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof, to hydrolysis and reduction.~~

20. (Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula [III]

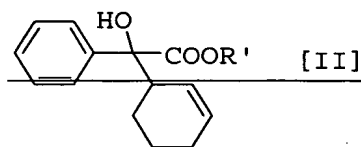


wherein R'' is linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s), which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, norbornyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl and (α -cyclohexyl- α -hydroxybenzyl)carbonyloxy, or cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl or norbornyl, which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s) and phenyl as defined in claim 10, or an optically active form thereof, which method comprising reacting a compound the formula [I]



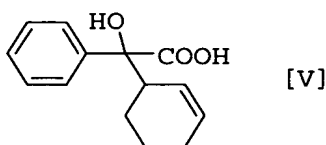
wherein R is linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s), which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, norbornyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl and benzoylcarbonyloxy, or cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl or norbornyl, which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of linear or branched chain

alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s) and phenyl as defined in claim 4, or an optically active form thereof, with cyclohexene in the presence of a Lewis acid to give a compound of ~~the~~ formula [II]

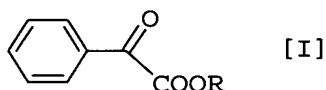


~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof,~~ and reducing the same.

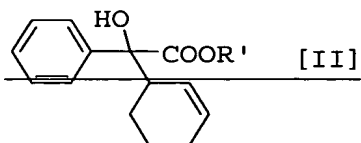
22. (Amended) A method for producing a compound of the formula [V]



, an optically active form thereof or a salt thereof, which method ~~comprising~~ comprises reacting a compound of the formula [I]

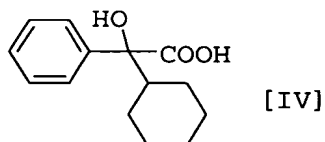


wherein R is linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s), which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, norbornyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl and benzoylcarbonyloxy, or cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl or norbornyl, which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s) and phenyl as defined in claim 4, or an optically active form thereof, with cyclohexene in the presence of a Lewis acid to give a compound of ~~the~~ formula [II]

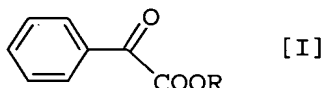


~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof,~~ and hydrolyzing the same.

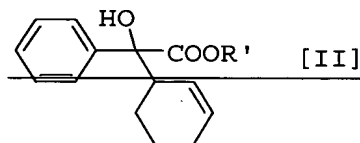
24. (Amended) A method of producing 2-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxy-2-phenylacetic acid of the formula [IV]



, an optically active form thereof or a salt thereof, which method ~~comprising~~ comprises reacting a compound of the formula [I]



wherein R is linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s), which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, norbornyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl and benzoylcarbonyloxy, or cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl or norbornyl, which is optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of linear or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 15 carbon atom(s) and phenyl as defined in claim 4, or an optically active form thereof, with cyclohexene in the presence of a Lewis acid to give a compound of ~~the~~ formula [II]



~~wherein R' is as defined in claim 1, or an optically active form thereof,~~ and subjecting the same to hydrolysis and reduction.